(c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline.

(d) Apart from other issues, the schedule of gas import from the proposed pipeline is also under discussion.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†403. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have prepared any outlines for development of different tourist places in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Central Government have any scheme regarding development of new tourist places alongwith old tourist places, if so, the nature of such scheme; and

(c) the names of districts in Rajasthan for which the proposal of development of different tourist places have been received by the Central Government from the State Government and out of them the names of tourist places for which the Central Government have prepared development schemes and the target fixed to complete those schemes alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places in the country is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under the schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(c) A project 'Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan' has been sanctioned for Rs. 800.00 lakh in the current financial year. This project covers 28 monuments spread across different districts such as Jaipur, Karauli, Udaipur, Ajmer, Dausa, Churu, Dholpur, Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, Bikaner and Kota.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time.

Promotion of tourism in Punjab

404. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals/suggestions made by the State Government of Punjab for the promotion of tourism in that State are presently pending with the Central Government for approval/clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise; and

(c) by when, they are likely to be approved/cleared?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.